

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated March 28, 2006, Applicants respectfully request continued examination.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-11, 13, 16-18, 20-24, 27-28, 30-35, 37-44, 48, 50-57, 59, 61, 63-73, 75, 77-79, 82, 84-89, 91, 93-101, 103, 106-108, 110-114, 117-125 and 127-133 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,434,524 (Weber). Claims 80, 81 and 119 are canceled without prejudice rendering the rejection moot. Claim 126, which depends from independent claim 125, appears to have been omitted from the Examiner's action, but it is included in this response. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 3-11, 13, 16-18, 20-24, 27-28, 30-35, 37-44, 48, 50-57, 59, 61, 63-73, 75, 77-79, 82, 84-89, 91, 93-101, 103, 106-108, 110-114, 117, 118, and 120-133 are patentable over Weber.

Regarding Claim 1, Weber does not teach, disclose or suggest a processor configured to analyze a grammar. Weber discusses speech recognition for an object-based computer interface which includes both speech recognition and natural language processing (Col. 1 lines 5-10). The grammars utilized by Weber include standard grammar files (FIG. 7B, flag 624) and context specific grammars incorporated in DDF files (FIG. 7C, flag 644). Weber determines whether a particular web-site includes a DDF file (Col. 16 lines 11-15). If the DDF file exists, a context-specific grammar file is used (Col. 16 lines 58-62). If a DDF does not exist, the standard grammar file is used (Col. 16 lines 62-65). Thus the analysis in Weber is limited to determining whether a DDF file exists, and then applying the appropriate pre-existing grammar. Weber does not teach, disclose, or suggest an analysis of the grammars themselves. Further, the processor discussed in Weber is directed to replacing words after speech recognition via the natural language processor (Col. 3 lines 39-50, cited by the Examiner). In contrast, the processor recited in claim 1 is configured to analyze a grammar prior to speech recognition. Claim 1 recites a first application configured to output a grammar and to receive a user selection associated with the grammar, a voice application to receive the grammar from the first application, and to output a user selection to the first application,

the voice application platform including a processor configured to analyze the grammar, to identify at least one characteristic of the grammar, and to modify the grammar based on the at least one characteristic, and a speech recognizer coupled to the processor and configured to interpret the speech input as a function of the modified grammar, and to produce the user selection. Accordingly, claim 1 discusses an apparatus including a processor configured to analyze a grammar (e.g. to determine specific characteristics or attributes of its content to then make assumptions about the response(s) that a web site is expecting (Specification, page 17 line 25 - page 18 line 3)). In contrast, Weber discusses determining whether a website includes a DDF file, interpreting an utterance based on preexisting sets of grammar, and then applying a natural language processor to the interpreted result. For at least these reasons independent claim 1, and claims 3-11, 13, 16 and 17 that depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are patentable over Weber.

Regarding claims 18, 20-24, 27-28, 30-35, 37-44, 48, 50-57, 59, 61, 63-73, 75, 77-79, 82, 84-89, 91, 93-101, 103, 106-108, 110-114, 117, 118, and 120-133, they are similar in scope and content to claims 1, 3-11, 13, 16 and 17, and therefore patentable under similar rationale.

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' Attorney at the number provided below with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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